

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-14 and 16-37 are pending in the above-identified application. Support for the substantive change to claim 1 is found at page 55, lines 14-17, as well as in the Examples, of the specification.

Removal of Claim Objections

Claims 2 and 3 have been objected to under 37 CFR 175(c) as being in improper dependent form because of the phrase “...the total number of layers A and layers B is no less than 250”. This phrase has been removed from claims 2 and 3 so as to remove the basis for this objection. Thus, it is requested that this objection be withdrawn.

Issue under 35 USC 112

Claim 22 has been rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite because of the word “substantially”. This rejection is respectfully traversed. It is submitted that the term “substantially” has been accepted as satisfying definiteness requirements under 35 USC 112. *In re Mattison*, 184 USPQ2d 484 (CCPA 1975); and *Andrew Corp. v. Gabriel Electronics*, 6 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1988). In addition, it is noted that the term “substantially” is fully supported by original claim 22. Finally, it is submitted that the use of this term is completely consistent with the disclosure at page 38, lines 3-12 of the specification. It is respectfully submitted that in the technological context of the present application. The scope of present claim 22 is definite so as to satisfy the definiteness requirements under 35 USC 112. Thus, it is requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Issues under 35 USC 102(b) and 103(a)

Claims 1-3, 5-14 and 16-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hebrink '182 (US Publication No. 2001/0019182) taken in view of evidence given by Arends '659 (US Patent 5,360,659) in view of Weber '897 (US Patent 6,025,897).

The above rejection is traversed based on the following reasons.

Present Invention and Its Advantages

The present invention is directed to a multilayer film formed from alternate thermoplastic layers A and B, wherein these layers have the same basic skeleton. As recited in amended claim 1, the multilayer film is manufactured by using a feedblock which separately includes at least two or more members having a number of microscope slits. As described at page 55, line 17 to page 56, line 1 of the present specification, the employment of such a feedblock to manufacture the multilayer film of the present invention provides for advantageously reduced amounts of foreign substances resulting from deterioration due to heat, high precision layering even if the number of layers is large, and improved layering precision in the width direction. This film exhibits a reflectance peak before and after heating at 150°C for 30 minutes which differs by no greater than 15%. Also, the difference in reflectance between peaks of reflection in different locations in the width direction is within $\pm 10\%$. The film of the present invention exhibits advantageous properties. As evidenced by the examples and the comparative test results shown in Tables 1-7 in the present specification, the film embodiments of the present invention (Examples 1-23) exhibit advantageously improved reflectance, dimensional evenness, scratch resistance and resistance to layer separation properties over Comparative Examples 1-6 which do not include the inventive features.

Distinctions over Cited References

Hebrink '182 discloses methods and apparatuses for making multilayer optical films. Hebrink '182 mentions in paragraphs [0138] and [0145] some processing conditions which affect reflectance properties. Hebrink '182 discloses a desire to obtain thickness uniformity in a widthwise direction at paragraph [0077], but fails to specifically identify a method to do so. Hebrink '182 also mentions some examples of thermoplastic layers in paragraphs [0057] and [0058] with reference to uniaxially oriented films. Hebrink '182 discloses in paragraph [0005] that the combination of a feedblock with one or more multipliers results in film that do not have satisfactory uniformity of reflectivity properties. Instead, Hebrink '182 employs the feedblocks described at paragraphs [0022], [0026] and [0071]-[0076] and as shown in Figure 1-3.

Hebrink '182 fails to disclose the use of a feedblock corresponding to that of the present invention in order to manufacture the described multilayer film. Hebrink '182 fails to disclose or suggest a multilayer film that exhibits a reflectance peak before and after heating at 150°C for 30 minutes which differs by no greater than 15%, as in the present invention. Hebrink '182 further fails to disclose or suggest a difference in reflectance between peaks of reflection in different locations in the width direction that is within $\pm 10\%$, as in the present invention. Further, the uniaxially oriented thermoplastic films mentioned in Hebrink '182 must shrink in the oriented direction upon application of heat, such that it is not possible to satisfy the requirement that a reflectance peak differ by no greater than 15% after heating, as in the present invention. Consequently, significant patentable distinctions exist between the present invention and Hebrink '182, such that the above rejections based on this reference must be withdrawn.

In addition, it is submitted that both Arends '659 and Weber '897 fails to make up for the deficiencies of Hebrink '182, such that even an attempt to combine these references together fails to disclose or suggest the features of the claimed film of the present invention. Thus, the rejection based on Weber '897 and Hebrink '182 must also be withdrawn.

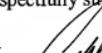
In view of the above, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned, Andrew D. Meikle, at the telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: July 31, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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